

Testimony before Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

October 2, 2007

Thank you Chairman Scott and Members of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

My constituents, and individuals across the nation, are fighting to protect their communities, schools, and families.

Unfortunately, growth in gangs and gang activities shows that existing enforcement mechanisms alone are not enough.

We should provide all levels of law enforcement the necessary resources to prevent gang activity, and to ensure public safety.

Gang activity does not stay neatly within one jurisdiction; it spreads across geographic boundaries. The only way to combat this is through cooperation.

I have witnessed what this level of cooperation can do locally to prevent gang activity. In my district, the cooperation between law enforcement agencies has been instrumental.

It's clear: when law enforcement agencies share information and work together they can reduce gang activity and protect our communities.

Interagency coordination is critical to preventing crimes.

That is why I introduced the Safe Streets Gang Crime Prevention Act of 2007. My bill creates a National Gang Crime Prevention Fund.

The database will contain information on gangs, gang members, firearms, criminal activities, vehicles, and

Additionally, my bill provides funding to expand the FBI's Safe Streets Program, which conducts long-term

This legislation will have a significant impact on reducing gang activity.

Since coming to Congress, I have seen firsthand how federal, state, and local law enforcement officers have

Yet despite some successes, gang crime still constitutes a significant threat to our nation.

In the largest city in my district, there are at least 84 gangs and hundreds more in the state of California.

Mr. Chairman, gang crime can be prevented if we work together.

I thank you again for this opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee.